

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 461

February 9, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits a law enforcement agency (agency) from hiring a police officer who was previously employed by another agency and was fired due to disciplinary infractions or while under investigation for misconduct in the line of duty or resigned or retired while under investigation for disciplinary infractions or misconduct in the line of duty. Requires an agency to inform another agency of the dismissal, resignation, or retirement of a police officer under these circumstances if the agency has knowledge that the former police officer is an applicant.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to a 2020 Yale Law Journal study, *The Wandering Officer*, three percent of all currently employed law enforcement officers in Florida were previously fired from another agency.
- This analysis assumes the same percentage for law enforcement officers in Tennessee.
- According to the most recent Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are roughly 15,976 sworn state or local law enforcement officers in Tennessee (13,691 local officers + 2,285 state officers).
- This would account for 411 (13,691 x 3%) local law enforcement officers and 67 (2,285 x 3%) state law enforcement officers.
- This legislation does not impact currently-employed officers who have previously been fired, or resigned, or retired under the specifications of this legislation.
- The National Police Foundation has found that, as of 2020, 86 percent of all agencies nation-wide have significant officer shortage.
- Passage of this legislation could impact multiple personnel decisions and related spending including but not limited to fewer available applicants for new positions, fewer transfers from one agency to another, the timing of new hires currently under investigation, retention of existing officers, recruiting efforts for new officers, and salaries of new and existing officers.
- Any net impact statewide on expenditures related to police officers is estimated to be not significant.

- Requiring an agency to inform another agency of the dismissal, resignation, or retirement of an applicant under these circumstances will not significantly impact state or local workload and can be accommodated with existing resources and personnel.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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